

# Bulletin of Labour Force Statistics of Northern and Eastern Provinces - 2002



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## Introduction:

In the recent past the Department of Census & Statistics was unable to conduct Household Surveys in the areas under the Northern and the Eastern Provinces due to the unavailability of a proper sampling frame. (A proper sampling frame should consist of the list of all housing units and other units in the area concerned).

A listing of units was carried out also in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces prior to the Census of Population and Housing 2001 and these listings are available for sampling purposes for the following geographical domains.

## Domains used for sampling purposes.

### 1) Eastern Province -

Lists of units are available in all the 3 Districts Ampara, Trincomalee and Batticaloa except for few G.N.Divisions.

### 2) Northern Province -

The lists of units which could be used for sample selection purposes are generally available (except for few isolated G.N.Divisions)

- (i) in all of the D.S.Divisions in Jaffna District **except for Thenamarachchy D.S.Division,**
- (ii) in all of the D.S.Divisions in Vavuniya District **except for Vavuniya North D.S.Division** and
- (iii) in "Mannar Town" D.S.Division **2002. only but not in other 4 D.S.Divisions** in Mannar District.

Further no lists of units are available for Killinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts at all.

## Survey Operation in the North and the East:

The Sample Surveys Division of the Department of Census & Statistics decided to commence household sample survey programme in the North and the East, using the above partially complete frame as a beginning. A sample which is adequate to provide estimates of basic labour force characteristics for the geographical domains described earlier was used in the Labour Force Survey conducted in the North and the East in year 2002. **The results given in this bulletin refers to these geographical domains** and the results are based on the total sample covered in year 2002. In the tables these geographical domains are referred to as (1) Northern (Part) and (2) Eastern respectively.

## Limitations of Data:

Due to the sampling frame limitations described earlier in this bulletin, it was also decided not to publish total estimates, but to publish proportions and rates only in this bulletin. Action has already been taken to rectify the problems in the existing frame and it is hoped that household sample surveys could be conducted covering all the districts in Sri Lanka, (including the North and the East) based on a proper sampling frame commencing fourth quarter of year 2003.

# LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**Table 1:- Labour force status (current) of the household population 10 years of age & over by sex**

Province & Sex	Labour force Participation Rate(%)	Employment Rate(%)	Unemployment Rate(%)
<b>Northern (part)</b>			
Total	33.8	87.0	13.0
Male	54.6	93.1	6.9
Female	15.7	68.5	31.5
<b>Eastern</b>			
Total	40.3	84.1	15.9
Male	63.6	90.7	9.3
Female	18.0	62.0	38.0

**Table 2:- Labour force status(current) of the household population 10 years of age & over by age**

Province & Sex	Labour force Participation Rate(%)	Employment Rate(%)	Unemployment Rate(%)
<b>Northern (part)</b>			
15 - 19	12.1	57.4	42.6
20 - 24	47.1	63.8	36.2
25 - 29	55.0	74.2	25.8
30 & above	42.3	97.7	2.3
<b>Eastern</b>			
15 - 19	24.6	57.7	42.3
20 - 24	53.1	60.2	39.8
25 - 29	55.3	78.0	22.0
30 & above	49.9	95.1	4.9

## EMPLOYED POPULATION

**Table 3:-Distribution of currently employed persons by age group(percentage)**

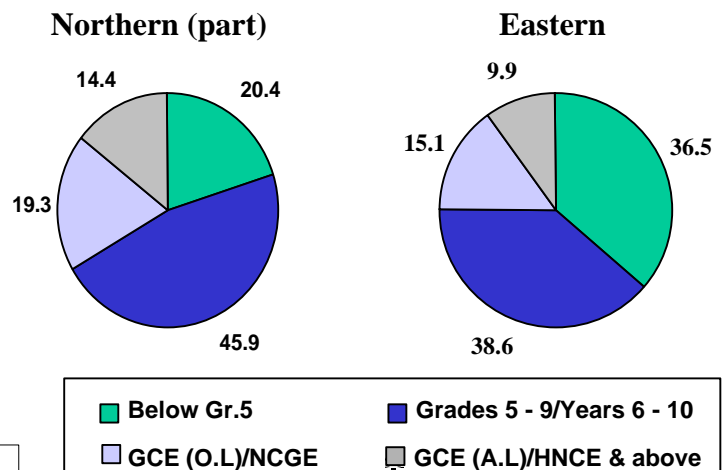
Age Group	Province	
	Northern (part)	Eastern
All ages	100.0	100.0
10 - 14 Yrs	0.1	0.6
15 - 19 Yrs	3.2	5.5
20 - 24 Yrs	12.2	11.4
25 - 29 Yrs	11.2	13.0
30 - 39 Yrs	24.4	30.3
40+ Yrs	48.8	39.3

**Table 4:-Distribution of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage)**

Province & Sex	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
<b>Northern (part)</b>					
Total	100.0	20.4	45.9	19.3	14.4
Male	100.0	21.2	48.9	20.1	9.8
Female	100.0	16.9	33.8	16.1	33.3
<b>Eastern</b>					
Total	100.0	36.5	38.6	15.1	9.9
Male	100.0	36.9	40.4	14.7	8.1
Female	100.0	34.5	29.9	16.9	18.7

- The male participation rate in the labour force is about three times that of the female participation rate in the area of the Northern province covered in the survey. The same pattern can be observed in the Eastern province also.
- The reported unemployment rate is above the national average (which is around 9 percent) in both areas. Eastern province has reported a even higher rate as compared with the Northern province.
- The female unemployment rate is markedly higher compared with the male unemployment rate in both provinces. Female unemployment rate is more than 4 times as that of the rate for males.
- The highest labour force participation can be observed in the age groups 25 - 29 in both provinces. It is nearly fifty five percent for both sexes.
- The highest unemployment rate is reported in the age group 15 - 19 in both provinces and it is nearly 42 percent.

**Figure 1:-Distribution of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage)**



- Nearly 75 percent and 65 percent of the employed persons in the Eastern and the Northern province respectively, have a level of education below G.C.E.(O/L) only.
- Table 4 reveals that, the proportion of employed females with G.C.E.(A/L) & above is higher than that of males. This difference is more prominent in the Northern areas covered in the survey as compared to East.

**Table 5:- Currently employed persons by employment status - Both sexes**

Province	Total Employed	Employee					
		Total Public	Private	Employer	Own Account	Unpaid Family Worker	Unpaid Worker
<b>Northern (Part)</b>	100.0	63.7	21.0	42.7	2.6	29.5	4.2
<b>Eastern</b>	100.0	58.6	17.9	40.7	3.5	31.7	6.2

**Table 6:- Currently employed persons by industry group an sex (Based on ISIC Third Revision)**

Industry group	Province	
	Northern (Part)	Eastern
Total	100.0	100.0
Agriculture Forestry and Fishery	39.1	38.5
Manufacturing	9.6	10.5
Construction	3.9	4.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicals etc. and Personal and Household Goods	12.2	14.1
Public Administration, Defence and Compulsory Social Security	9.0	11.0
Education	7.6	4.2
Health & Social work, Other community, Social and personal service activities	6.2	4.0
Other **	12.3	12.9

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability ( based on CV),some of these groups have been combined.

**Table 6A - Currently employed persons by industry group (Based on ISIC Third Revision)**

Industry Group	Northern(part)		Eastern	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)	41.0	31.7	42.1	21.0
Manufacturing (D)	9.1	11.7	8.4	20.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)	13.6	6.1	12.9	20.0
Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L)	7.8	13.5	10.9	11.2
Education (M)	3.6	24.3	2.7	11.9
Other **	24.9	12.7	23.1	15.0

- The proportion of Unpaid family workers in the Northern and the Eastern provinces is quite below the proportion generally reported in the other parts of the country, which is around 10 part.
- As in other parts of the country the highest proportion of the employed person is reported in agricultural sector in both provinces. It is nearly 39 percent in both provinces.
- The involvement of females in agricultural activities as an employment is less as compared with their male counterparts, particularly in the Eastern province. However with respect to other industrial categories, involvement of employed females in the Northern province is lower as compared with the East, except for the industrial category 'Education'.

**\*\* Other in table 6 includes**

- Hotels and Restaurants (H)
- Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
- Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
- Private Households with Employed Persons (P)
- Miscellaneous Labour work
- Minning & Quarrying (C)
- Electricity,Gas and Water supply (E)
- Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (Q)
- Industries not adequately described

**\*\* Other in table 6A includes**

- Construction (F)
- Health and Social work (N)
- Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities (O)
- Hotels and Restaurants (H)
- Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
- Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
- Minning & Quarrying (C)
- Electricity,Gas and Water supply (E)
- Industries not adequately described
- Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (Q)

**Table 7 - Currently employed persons by occupation group (based on ISCO 88)**

Occupation group	Province	
	Northern (part)	Eastern
Total	100.0	100.0
Technical and Associate Professionals	6.1	4.6
Clerks	3.5	3.2
Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises	1.5	1.7
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers	26.4	28.5
Craft and Related workers	10.3	10.9
Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers	4.3	3.9
Elementary occupations	25.2	24.5
Other *	22.8	22.7

\*Other includes,

Sale and Service workers      Senior Officials and Managers  
 Professionals                      Unidentified

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the major Groups of ISCO - 88 classification

## UNEMPLOYED POPULATION

**Table 8 - Currently unemployed persons by age group & sex**

Province & Sex	Total	Age groups			
		15 -19 yrs	20 - 24 yrs	25 - 29 yrs	30+ yrs
<b>Northern (part)</b>					
Total	100.0	15.8	46.4	26.1	11.6
Male	100.0	19.3	47.8	23.6	9.2
Female	100.0	13.5	45.5	27.8	13.3
<b>Eastern</b>					
Total	100.0	21.3	40.1	19.4	19.2
Male	100.0	23.6	35.7	19.5	21.2
Female	100.0	19.5	43.7	19.4	17.5

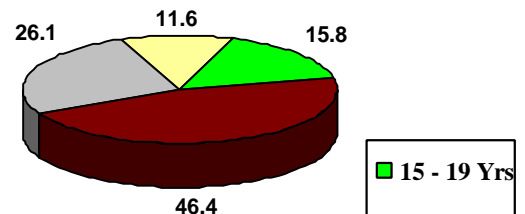
**Table 9 :- Currently unemployed persons by level of education - Both sexes**

Province	Total	Level of Education		
		Below grade 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE & above
<b>Northern (Part)</b>	100.0	44.6	26.7	28.7
<b>Eastern</b>	100.0	43.2	29.9	26.9

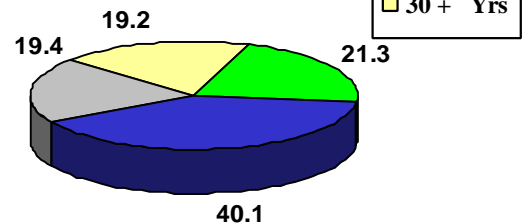
- 'Skilled Agricultural and Fishery worker' group is reported to be the most prominent occupation group in both areas, followed by 'Elementary Occupations'.

**Figure 2 - Currently unemployed persons by age groups(percentage) - Both Sexes**

### Northern (part)



### Eastern



- It is observed that the highest proportion of unemployed is reported under the age group 20 - 24 yrs in both areas and among both sexes.

- The highest proportion of unemployed persons is recorded under the level of education group, below grade 10 in both provinces